

ABSTRACT

A set-top unit for processing a cable signal from a cable television system for use on a television, where the set-top unit includes one or more programming tuners in addition to a control tuner, can reduce the time required to locate the cable system's control channel by having all available tuners, the control tuner and programming tuner(s), search the band of possible frequencies of the control channel simultaneously. The band of frequencies is divided among the available tuners in the set-top unit, with each tuner searching an assigned portion of the band for a control channel. With multiple tuners searching for the control channel(s), the time required to acquire the control channel is minimized.